

PROGRAM OF CEREMONIES



First Day Issue

of the

Four Cent Stamp

Commemorating the Centennial of the

Admission of the State of Oregon

To the Union February 14, 1859

Oregon National Guard Armory Auditorium

Saturday, February 14, 1959

The Great River of the West, sought for two centuries, was finally discovered May 11, 1792, when Captain Robert Gray, fur-trader out of Boston, followed Indian canoes across the bar. He named the fabled stream Columbia, honoring his 83-foot sailing ship, and claimed the territory for the young United States.

The far-seeing Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark on a carefully-planned overland trek to explore the wilderness from the Missouri to the Pacific. The army expedition reached the coast in the autumn of 1805, and spent the winter at Fort Clatsop, four miles south of Astoria.

Profits running into the thousands of percentages early lured fur-traders of all nations. The United States claim to the "Oregon Country" was furthered when the Pacific Fur Company, financed by John Jacob Astor, established a fur-trading post on the south shore of the river. Construction commenced April 12, 1811, and Astoria thus became the first continuously occupied English-speaking settlement west of the Mississippi. Sold to the Northwest Company in 1813 and claimed by Great Britain, it reverted to the United States by treaty, but the boundary dispute was not settled until 1846, when present Oregon and Washington became a part of the United States.

In the meantime, missionaries, settlers, and merchants had come to dispute the feudal sway of the Hudson's Bay Company, and provisional, later territorial government had been set up. On February 14, 1859, President Buchanan signed the Oregon statehood bill.

Oregon voted for the "lawyer from Illinois," but sat out the Civil War in comparative isolation. By the 1850's and 60's, ships owned and skippered by Oregonians were bringing goods around the Horn, and rich silks for milady's adornment from the Orient. Wagon freights across the plains and mountains augmented goods brought up the great waterway. In the 1880's trans-continental railroads banded Oregon to its eastern sisters. Fish, lumber, wheat, livestock, went to world markets.

From that point it has shared the nation's enthusiasms, its triumphs, its depressions, its progress. Perhaps the pioneer period has passed, but the heritage of vigor, ambition and determination remain as Oregon today enters her second century.



On March 9, 1847, President James K. Polk appointed John M. Shively of Astoria as the first postmaster in the Oregon Territory. The area served comprised what is now Western Oregon and Washington from Puget Sound south through the Willamette Valley.

The post office was located in one room of Shively's residence near present 15th and Exchange Streets in Astoria. The site is marked by a bronze plaque donated by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

PROGRAM

10:00 A.M.

Concert by the Astoria High School Band

Ted G. Marshall, Director

10:30 A.M.

Presiding	Robert J. Hanson
National Anthem	Astoria High School Band
Invocation	The Reverend W. E. Putnam President, Astoria Ministerial Association
Greeting	Hon. Harry M. Steinbock Mayor of Astoria

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Remarks	Hon. Mark O. Hatfield Governor of Oregon
Presentation of Stamps	Hon. L. Rohe Walter Special Assistant to the Postmaster General
Remarks	Hon. Richard M. Nixon Vice President of the United States
Benediction	The Reverend W. E. Putnam

COMMITTEE

FIRST DAY ISSUE OREGON CENTENNIAL
COMMEMORATIVE STAMP
FEBRUARY 14, 1959

Burnby M. Bell — Member, Governor's Advisory Committee,
Clatsop County

Edward W. Harvey — Astoria City Chairman, Clatsop County
Centennial

Charles DeFoe — Co-ordinator, First Day Issuance Activities

Arnold C. Swanson — Chairman, Official First Day Cover
Distribution

Robert J. Hanson — Chairman, Centennial Stamp Issuance
Program

Rolf Klep — Designer, Official First Day Cover